



PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Charles J. Winslow et al.

Examiner: Julian W. Woo

Serial No.: 08/889,661

Group Art Unit: 3309

Filed: July 8, 1997

Docket: 203-1782 CON (1791 CON)

For: OPEN POSTERIOR LUMBAR
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Dated: October 10, 1997

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure, it is respectfully requested that the references cited in the annexed Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the above-identified application.

The patents listed were previously cited and submitted in the parent application, U.S. Appln. Serial No. 08/615,379, filed March 14, 1996. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d) and 35 U.S.C. §120, copies of the patents can be obtained in the above-identified parent application.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on October 10, 1997.

Dated: October 10, 1997

Joseph W. Schmidt

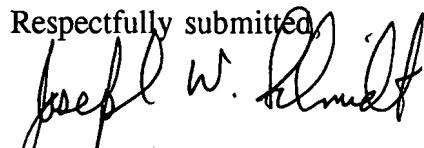
The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that these disclosures are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of these particular items, it will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

To the best of Applicants' knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action in connection with this case.

The claims of the subject application are believed to distinguish over the art of record and to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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